ABSTRACT

A retardation film comprised of a single oriented polymer film, characterized in that the retardation at wavelengths of 450 nm and 550 nm satisfies the following formulae (1) and/or (2), and the water absorption is no greater than 1%.

$$R(450)/R(550) < 1 \qquad (1)$$
$$K(450)/K(550) < 1 \qquad (2)$$

where $R(450)$ and $R(550)$ represent the in-plane retardation of the oriented polymer film at wavelengths of 450 nm and 550 nm, respectively, and $K(450)$ and $K(550)$ are the values calculated by $K = [n_z - (n_x + n_y)/2] \times d$ (where n_x, n_y and n_z represent the three-dimensional refractive indexes of the oriented polymer film as the refractive indexes in the direction of the x-axis, y-axis and z-axis, respectively, and d represents the thickness of the film) for the oriented polymer film at a wavelength of 450 nm and 550 nm, respectively. There are provided laminated retardation films and liquid crystal display devices employing the retardation film.